

"In addition to holding the oil industry responsible for the Gulf spill, the House finally passed a bill that includes key provisions in my Oceans-21 legislation," Rep. Farr said. "In addition to creating the Ocean Resources Conservation and Assistance Fund to implement ocean management reform, the CLEAR Act would implement the regional ocean coordination and planning processes that are central to my bill."

In addition to Rep. Farr's broader ocean management reforms, the Consolidated Land, Energy, and Aquatic Resources Act, known as the CLEAR Act, would hold the oil industry fully responsible for the cleanup costs of the BP spill, strengthen oversight of oil drilling and restore the Gulf Coast.

"The Deepwater Horizon oil disaster is just the latest in a string of abuses of our ocean, and I'm disappointed that it took a tragedy of this level to spur action on my legislation," Rep. Farr said. "These reforms put us on the right track, and I hope Senate Republicans don't kill this bill like they have so many others. It's time for action, and a string of 'no' votes does nothing for our country."

The CLEAR Act (H.R. 3534) and other legislation passed Friday takes steps to prevent and respond to oil spills and protect our coastal communities and waters. Specifically it will:

- Create the Ocean Resources Conservation and Assistance Fund, a key component of Rep. Farr's Oceans-21, to spur ocean management reforms.
- Implement regional ocean coordination and planning processes from Oceans-21.
- Put in place strong new safety measures for offshore drilling.
- Hold BP and the oil industry fully responsible for the cleanup costs and recovery after spills, removing the \$75 million cap on economic damages to be paid by Big Oil to families and small businesses.
- Help restore the Gulf Coast and protect local residents.

"I'm proud that my years of work as a champion of the ocean are finally bearing fruit," Rep. Farr said. "The regional ocean governance provisions and the new ocean trust fund mirrored in my Oceans-21 legislation are codifying much of the content of President Obama's July executive order on the oceans to make sure we don't lose ground under a new administration. We've finally realized that plundering the ocean and not reinvesting any profits in conservation is no longer a viable strategy."

The bills passed on Friday build on legislation already passed by the House to ensure fair compensation to the families of those killed or injured in the BP spill, ensure aid to the Gulf, tough oversight for BP, and ample resources to respond to the spill, and develop new methods and technologies to clean up oil spills and safer drilling technologies and prevent an accident such as the BP disaster from ever happening again.

The CLEAR Act passed the House 209-193 with one voting present. The Senate is currently working on its own legislation in response to the oil spill.

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